

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Graham Sime, Phil Hodgson and Olga Vertija

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor)

23.09.01 **Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllr. Leslie be received and accepted.

23.09.02 **Minutes**

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 19th July 2023 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Sime

Seconded: Cllr. Shaw

Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning meeting of the 19th August 2023 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Vertija

Seconded: Cllr. Thompson

23.09.03 **Public Speaking Time**

Mike Wilson said that both the Pay Zone and Picnic area have well established working parties. The Play Zone has already had 2 working parties this year. The Picnic area, Nick Rayner has continued to do a fantastic job of maintaining the picnic area grass. Cllr. Shaw ensures the roadside hedges are cut at appropriate times. Working parties installed bird and bug houses and planted the hedge at the layby, when first installed the hedges were low and when parking at the layby it was possible to see into the picnic area and over to the Mill pond, these hedges have now grown and need cutting. Cllr. Shaw will ensure all hedges are cut and maintained.

Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor)

The first meeting with the Ward Councillors liaison officer will occur this Thursday.

Charles would like everyone to report issues with gullies and potholes regularly.

Highway hedges are the responsibility of Highways, where signs are not visible.

23.09.05 **Planning Matters**

1- To note planning decisions received.

None

**2 -To consider response to planning applications received
 Applications received since the last meeting.**

22/02768/FUL**Location** - Land at Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane, Eaton**Proposal** – Construction of One new dwellingThe Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Leslie

Seconded – Cllr. Hinchcliffe

No objection to the overall principle of the development but;

Objects to the front elevation/ road elevation, the street scene design needs to be enhanced to ensure its in keeping with the properties within the village, using similar materials to those used on other properties within the Parish.

There is no front door on the current design, is this a purposeful design? The design would look better with a door and porch.

The footprint of the property and garden would need to be kept as detailed within the Design, Action and Planning Statements both dated March 2022 and June 2023. There should be no encroachment into the surrounding open countryside, and therefore only built on the current garden space.

Has a tree assessment been undertaken as previously suggested?, any trees, shrubs removed during the development, should be replaced and a further 10% replanted to increase the ecology and biodiversity of the area.

23/01876/LDC**Proposal:** Existing use of land as a domestic garden**Location:** Brownhills, Brownhills Road, Rushton, Tarporley, CW6 9BQ

The plans supplied appeared confusing and difficult to read along with the photographic evidence supplied.

The Parish Council require more information on the area marked blue on title deed CH170667.

The councillors would like to visit the site to get a greater understanding of the planning application.

Clerk has contacted planning Department, as of yet there hasn't been a case officer assigned to this planning application, once this happens they will contact the Parish Clerk and arrange a site visit.

23.09.06 Highways**Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**a. Highways Issues

village entry signs Cllr Hinchcliffe circulated images of designs that could be used for the village entrances. All councillors have looked at these and discussion held.

The design and pricing of both the gates and signs has been obtained, before going ahead with this project the Parish Council has liaised with Highways.

Jerry Gibbs of Highways has clarified the licences required for working on highways land. Highways confirmed that Rushton Parish Council own the signs and can update, maintain them as long as appropriate licences in place to do so.

An article appeared in the August newsletter to show the designs of the gates and signs to enable the parish to comment.

Councillors to review all details and decision to be made in October meeting

Actions – prepare proposal and continue liaison with Highways Cllrs Sime, Leslie and Vertiga.

Purchase sign for direction to M6 north and South for placement near village green – Cllr. Leslie has undertaken a lot of work on this and selected the most appropriate sign for purchase.

Action – Select sign of. preference Cllrs. Sime, Leslie and Vertija

b. Road Safety Matters

The Parish Council are awaiting feedback and clarification from highways on several matters

1. 20 MPH signs - Highways have confirmed that the 20mph sign on Royal Lane will be move to incorporate the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. The Clerk has asked for a timescales for this work. The 20mph on Eaton Lane is in the incorrect location, going from 20mph in the centre of the village to 30mph and then 40mph heading towards Cotebrook, it is apparent this does not occur in other villages and the Clerk has asked for the 20mph to be extended.
2. Oulton Mill Lane. The ditch on the left as driving to Cotebrook overflows during inclement weather. This has been reported to Highways on numerous occasions. Highways have undertaken some maintenance works to place a timber headwall and infill with some gravel, the drain is broken under the road.
Lewis Williams from CWaC attended a site meeting and subsequently maintenance works have been undertaken to install a new drain and inspection chamber.
3. VAS On Lower Lane – was a community initiative to slow traffic on a narrow lane with no footpaths next to the busy primary school, unfortunately the VAS was on private land and now been removed, the unit has been taken down and safely stored and the pole has been removed by contractors with 'Street licence' to work on a Highway.
The Parish Council are working with the Ward Councillor, Highways and residents to find another suitable location on private land to relocate the VAS. The Parish Council acknowledges that there was and will continue to not be an legally enforceable agreement in place if the owner leaves the property where the VAS is positioned and is not longer in a suitable location.
An article was placed in the August newsletter to give the residents an update on the relocation process.
4. The Oulton Mill Lane sign, located by the Picnic area was hit and damaged in the autumn, the damage was reported to Highways at the time but no actions taken. The sign has now disappeared. Clerk has reported this to Highways, no timescales for the replacement have been given.
5. Hall lane, the speed signs are facing the wrong way and need turning correctly, Clerk has reported this to Highways who will adjust the signage.
6. Lower lane, has no road markings in some areas due to the narrow nature of the road.
Parish Clerk to ask Highways if road markings can be re-introduced.
7. Rushton Parish is a rural, predominantly farming area, many members of the parish are employed by these businesses both seasonally and permanently. During the busiest months of the years tractors will be on the lanes more frequently, including early in the morning and sometimes late at night. Noises and smells may be an irritation but the valuable service that the farming community bring to the parish in producing crops, and protecting the land and wildlife for future generations is something all should be proud of.

Communications

Newsletter

Editor role is still vacant. If anyone would like to now take on the role of newsletter editor, please do contact the Clerk, Lindsey via at e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

Update as pre Public Speaking

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is obviously being used regularly.

Cllr. Shaw trimmed the hedges on 16th June, for road safety reasons, he has also dug up several sacks of ragwort.

Nick Rayner mows the grass every two weeks

Thank you to both for your continued support in keeping this community asset looking beautiful for the parish and visitors from afar.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with the picnic area project, please contact the Clerk Lindsey at, rushtonclerk@aol.com

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

The backboard of basket ball net has become damaged.

Annual inspection Package 1 chosen by all councillors present. Clerk to arrange

Broadband

The Broadband for Hall Lane and outer areas of the Parish will be installed by April.

Along Kings Lane, the poles were removed 15 years ago, but no ducting put in place, 21 poles will now need installation, which will include 2 poles at the start of Kings lane and then underground to Park Wall before being.

Brownhills requires 4 poles, the road will be closed on the 18th November for installation

Dogmore will need to be closed for 5 days in April.

Well done to everyone who has worked hard to get this project off the ground.

Matters Arising

Councillor Vacancy

Cllr. Suzanne Hincliffe has moved out of the Parish and is standing down as a Parish Councillor. The four years in which Cllr. Hincliffe has been a part of Ruston Parish Council has many changes and many achievements, Covid, meetings via zoom, meetings via social distancing. Village fun days, platinum jubilee and a coronation to name just a few things that have occurred. Cllr Hincliffe leaves us when she has just delivered the village entrance project to a point when the signs can be ordered.

Thank you so much for your valued contribution to the Parish and good luck with your new home.

Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall at rushtonclerk@aol.com

23.09.08 Correspondence

Resolved: that correspondence received as detailed below be noted and the action list be agreed:

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Highways	21/07/23 to date	Notification of road closures for maintenance Beech rd, Lower Lane, Hickhurst Lane, Winterford Lane and	Circulated	

		Utkinton Rd		
Member of Public	28/07/23	BT have placed poles on Brownhills that are obstructing field entrances	Circulated	
BT	01/08/23	BT Report for relocation of poles, councillor then spoke with operatives and was completed satisfactorily	Circulated	
CWaC Reports	31/07/23	HW535724753 potholes on Eaton Lane – not deep enough to repair HW535729172, Oulton Mill Lane, street name plate missing, to be replaced. HW535742747, The Hall lane, speed signs wrong way around, to be repaired	Circulated	To photo potholes and resend report
Highways Transportation	31/-7/23	Happy for VAS to be placed on private land	Circulated	
JHVI	03/08/23	New Chair taking over	Circulated	
Member of public, via councillor	15/08/23	Tractors travelling through village early in the morning and late at night	Circulated	
CWaC	21/08/23	Election recharge notification, invoice to be sent	Circulated	
Member of the Public	29/08/23	White lines on Lower Lane	Circulated	
Member of Public	4/09/23	Harvest at St Thomas's is on 3 rd October	Circulated	
Cllr. Hincliffe	05/09/23	Resignation	Circulated	
UU	07/09/23	To attend October meeting	Circulated	
Member of public	08/09/23	Speeding in the village has increased since the VAS has been removed	Circulated	
Cllr. Needham	10/09/23	Utkinton and Cotebrook PC wish to raise a motion at ChALC AGM regarding On Shore Windfarms	Circulated	

23.09.09 Finance Matters

Resolved: that the following net accounts are passed for payment:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
JHVI	Hall Hire July and August 2023	42.00		42.00
CWaC	Election recharge	£181.00		£181.00
L Worrall	Q2 Expenses	£24.96	£5.01	£29.97
L Worrall	Q2 Salary	£971.30		971.30

23.09.10 External Meeting

11th October Oulton Park liaison Group

23.09.11 Any Other Business

Eaton Village Police Surgeries

October -Wednesday 11th 11.00-12. noon

November – Tuesday 7th 6.00-7.00pm

December – Friday 8th 6.00-7.00pm

23.09.12 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th September 2023 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20:55pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT